

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/1/76

RICHARD HAROLD "DICK" LESTER, 1440 Hansboro, telephone 337-0812, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents, after which he furnished the following information:

Since shortly after the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, LESTER has frequented the assassination area, including the triple underpass, with his metal detector. Over the years, he has found handcuffs, brass knuckles, coins and other miscellaneous metal objects in this area. Approximately two years ago, exact date not recalled, he found a piece of metal that he believes to be a mutilated 6.5 mm spent cartridge in the area of the railroad tracks above the triple underpass at Dallas, Texas, which he claims is in the line of fire from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository. He described the specific location as being 61 steps south of a point on the west side of the overpass, directly above the south side of Commerce Street. He stated a narrow roadway runs along the westernmost railroad tracks and that the spent cartridge was located between the narrow roadway and the fence. He was alone when he found this lead spent cartridge. He showed it to no one and discussed it with no one until November 22, 1976, at approximately 11:45 p.m., when he was listening to a KRLD radio talk show on which "Dallas Times Herald" investigative reporter HUGH AYNESWORTH was appearing. He called and talked with Mr. AYNESWORTH, telling him he had a brother, W. H. LESTER, JR., who was a city jailer at Dallas, Texas in November, 1963. He told AYNESWORTH that his brother locked up JACK RUBY in the same cell which had been occupied by LEE HARVEY OSWALD after RUBY had shot OSWALD, and that this brother had also served OSWALD his last breakfast before RUBY killed him. He also told AYNESWORTH about finding the above described alleged spent cartridge.

LESTER continued that when he found the cartridge, he placed a half dollar in the hole from which he had taken the cartridge. About six months ago, he went to this same location and took up his half dollar and

Interviewed on 12/1/76 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 89-43  
 by SA ROBERT P. GEMBERLING and SA [redacted] /RPG/mgm Date dictated 12/1/76

substituted two dimes for it. On November 29, 1976, he showed HOWARD SWINDLE, a staff writer for the "Dallas Times Herald" newspaper, the exact location where he had found the spent cartridge and related to him the circumstances of finding same. He stated SWINDLE took photographs of him and the alleged spent cartridge, as well as a location where he claims he found same.

LESTER does not believe he ever passed over the exact location where he found the cartridge with his metal detector prior to finding same about two years ago, but has been in the general area with his metal detector prior to that time and numerous times since. Subsequent to finding this alleged spent cartridge, LESTER would frequently remark to friends that they ought to be looking in the assassination area for the bullet that killed President KENNEDY because they could likely make some money out of it. He claims he at no time told anyone he had found this cartridge and states he does not desire to make any money from it. The only reason he decided to mention having found it was because of the recent publicity about the assassination investigation being reopened, and he considered the KRLD radio talk show to be a good place to make it known.

Since November 22, 1976, when he revealed having found such spent cartridge, he has shown it to several people. -LESTER could not recall the names or would not divulge them and subsequently stated he was not going to furnish names of any people because he did not want them to be bothered with inquiries. He stated several of such people told him the alleged spent cartridge might be a 6.5 mm cartridge; and he feels that if it is determined to be a 6.5 mm caliber cartridge, it could very well be the bullet that killed President KENNEDY. He has not had this alleged cartridge examined by anyone, although he himself has cleaned it several times.

LESTER made this alleged spent cartridge available for examination by the FBI Laboratory with the understanding same would be returned to him after such examination. He was at first reluctant to make same available, expressing a desire to have such spent cartridge insured for an unspecified sum of money so that if the Federal government did not return it, he could collect on such insurance. He reiterated he did not need money and did

not desire to receive money for having found this spent cartridge. He stated he would be willing to testify to the circumstances surrounding his finding this spent cartridge and would also be willing to take a polygraph examination concerning same.

LESTER stated he understood from Mr. SWINDLE of the "Dallas Times Herald" that the story about him finding this alleged spent cartridge might appear in the "Dallas Times Herald" newspaper on 11/30/76. LESTER stated he does not subscribe to any newspaper and does not know if there was any mention of him in the November 30, 1976 edition of the "Dallas Times Herald". He stated if he finds out there was mention of it, he would likely go buy a copy of the newspaper.

The following background information was obtained from LESTER during the interview:

He was born June 27, 1917 at Ft. Worth, Texas. He has a seventh grade education. He served in the Merchant Marines from about 1945 to 1952. He has lived at his present residence for approximately 15 years. He lives alone. He has three grown children. LESTER suffers from ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ but is not in any way incapacitated by any of these illnesses. He has a trained attack dog and acts as security guard at night for the Southwest Wheel and Manufacturing Company, 2425 Irving Boulevard, Dallas, Texas, 631-0200. He also has a booth in Traders Village on Highway 20, Grand Prairie, Texas, where he sells metal detectors, bull horns, knives, watches, rings, and other miscellaneous items. In good weather, he attends this booth on Saturdays and Sundays as it operates like a flea market. He has ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ has never served any time in prison.